

Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
Sunday, June 13, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

One: If any person lives in Christ, they are a new creation, the old is finished and gone, the new has arrived.

Many: Some boast of bombs, some of their tanks, but we boast of the name of the Lord of hosts!

One: Let us prepare to celebrate the new realm of God, where the meek inherit the earth and the sincere in heart see God.

One: We will shout for joy over God's victory, in the name of Christ we will set up our banners.

*Hymn *"Incarnate God, Immortal Love"*

Incarnate God, immortal Love,
whom we, that have not seen your face,
by faith, and faith alone, embrace,
Believing where we cannot prove.
Our little systems have their day;
they have their day and cease to be;
They are but fleeting certainty,
and you, O Christ, are more than they.
We have but faith; we cannot know,
for knowledge is of things proved true;
And yet we trust it comes from you,
a sign of promise; let it grow.
Let knowledge grow from more to more,
but more of reverence in us dwell;
That mind and soul, according well,
may make one music as before.

Unison Prayer Of Invocation

Lord, we come this day, having seen the miracles of everyday creation in our world. We have enjoyed both the bright sunshine and the gentle rains. We have marveled over the beauty of flowers and the complexity of your creation. Make our hearts ready to receive your word for us, that we may go forth from this place ready to joyfully serve you all of our days. Amen.

Children's Message

A Reading from The Hebrew Bible **1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13**

³⁴Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the LORD was grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel. ¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." ²But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" ⁵Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." ⁹Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down [a] until he arrives." ¹²So he sent and

had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." ¹³So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

A Reading from The New Testament

2 Corinthians 5:6-10; 14-17

⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷We live by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

A Reading from The Gospels **Mark 4:26-34**

²⁶He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." ³⁰Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³²Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade." ³³With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

*Hymn *"Your Mercy Conquers All"*

You're our refuge, God, our strength, our hope when troubles come
our way.

Ever present, patient, shelter, sure, from dawn to end of day.

Chorus: Though the earth may creak and crumble, though the mountains
shake and fall,

God, we will not fear. Your love is near. Your mercy conquers all (x2).

We exalt You, God: Lord over all, the nations bring You praise.

God of earth and heaven walk with us; our refuge all our days.

Chorus

God we will not fear. Your love is near. Your mercy conquers all (x3)

Prayers of the People (*sharing of joys and concerns*)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*debts and debtors*)

Invitation to Give

Offertory *"When the Night Becomes Dark"* - Taizé

When the night becomes dark,

Your love, O Lord, is a fire;

Your love, O Lord, is a fire.

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, these gifts that we give to you are like seeds that your church will
sow in the world. We will marvel at how they take root and grow, but will
remember that while we sow and nourish these, you alone are the giver of the
growth and the harvest. Help us to be conscious of where we invest the seeds of
our lives: in our families, in our church, in our communities, and in places around
the world we will never see, but where you will likewise bring growth and harvest.
And when the harvest day comes, gracious God, help us to remember that all
good gifts have their start in your generous giving. In Christ's name, we pray.
Amen. (Mark 4:26-34)

*Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found.

Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.

Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast.

Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;

Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;

Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;

Changed from glory into glory, 'til in heaven we take our place,

Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Benediction

Postlude